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1. A system has been described which facilitates codifiable data entry in a simple way, using a relatively "flat" data entry format, avoiding the use of multiple levels of menus and submenus for each type of data entry.
  2. An embodiment has been described for health care personnel.
  3. The system includes forms which can be customized by the clinician to meet the needs of the clinician.
  4. The system is portable and flexible: the format lends itself not only to desktop computers, but also to handheld computers, scanable paper forms, etc.
  5. The system includes links between a data entry form and a database.
  6. The system includes links within the database between data entered into the form and dictated or typed data
  7. The data entry and database designs facilitate compliance with documentation guidelines for billing. The guidelines of the Health Care Financing Administration were used as an example, but the same method can be used for any set of guidelines.
  8. Should billing guidelines, or their interpretations, change, billing usually can be corrected by comparatively simple manipulations of the database, without the need to obtain the original records again for rebilling purposes.
  9. The same data entry that provides documentation for billing can generate chart notes, correspondence, prescriptions, etc. Because the clinician need enter the data only once, time is saved.
  10. Data entry for quality control efforts, clinical or research databases, and treatment

protocols is simplified and made less expensive because the data is entered at the point of service and at the time of service. Duplication is eliminated. Entry is by the actual provider of care to the patient.

11. The method reduces to a set of tables, and thus simplifies, the coding needed to establish a level of care according to the Documentation Guidelines developed by the American Medical Association and Health Care Financing Administration. It can do the same for any similar set of guidelines.
12. The method develops entry forms linked to the set of tables, as described above, and also linked to a clinic note / correspondence generator. In this way, the note taking process of a clinician seeing a patient is used to simplify the documentation required after the patient encounter.
13. As applied to medicine, the method could be used not only by practicing physicians but, in fact, by all health care workers (e.g. nurses, home health care). Beyond health care, the method is applicable to any service, manufacturing, or other business situation, that is any situation where there is acquisition of data, where complex calculations must be made, where data needs to be stored, and where documents are prepared based upon the data.

Add #3

Add #1

Add #4